

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IGA-01 TRSE-00 SY-05

EB-07 ACDA-05 OMB-01 IO-10 EUR-12 /095 W

----- 123958

O P 031136Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9599

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3848

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJ: MARCH 2 AND 3, THE 61ST AND 62ND DAYS OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 3763

1. SUMMARY: KC ATTACKS ISOLATED BANAM FROM NEAK LUONG. THEY
OVERRAN THE ISOLATED FANK GARRISON EAST OF NEAK LUONG AS WELL.
THE POST AT BRIDGE 9 NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH FINALLY FELL
MARCH 3 AFTER REPEATED ATTACKS. FANK HAS A MAJOR OPERATION
UNDERWAY TO RELIEVE THE BATTALION ISOLATED SOUTHWEST OF THE
CAPITAL. THE POCHENTONG AREA TOOK 24 ROCKETS DURING THE TWO
DAYS WITH 2 PEOPLE KILLED AND 7 INJURED. PHNOM PENH RECEIVED
14 ROUNDS, INCLUDING FOUR IN THE TUOL KAU SUBURB ON THE
CAPITAL'S NORTHWEST EDGE. THE ROUNDS KILLED 12 AND INJURED 17.

END SUMMARY.

2. THE KC HAVE CUT ROUTE 15 BETWEEN NEAK LUONG AND
BANAM THEREBY DESTROYING THE COHERENCE OF THE DEFENSIVE
PERIMETER AT THAT CRITICAL MEKONG PORT. STRAGGLERS ARE
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STILL DRIFTING IN FROM THE FALL OF A FANK BATTALION CUT
OFF ON NEAK LUONG'S EASTERN PERIMETER. CLEARING

OPERATIONS ON THE ISLAND BETWEEN NEAK LUONG AND BANAM
CONTINUED WITH 15 KC KILLED. NAVAL CONVOYS FROM PHNOM
PENH TOOK RICE, AMMO AND DIESEL FUEL TO NEAK LUONG ON
MARCH 2 AND 3 WITH LITTLE DAMAGE. COMMENT: THE KC ARE ATTACKING
NEAK LUONG IN FORCE; THEY ARE WELL-ARMED AND
DETERMINED. FANK WILL NEED TO SHOW MORE OVERALL SPIRIT
AND IMAGINATION TO COUNTER THEM. END COMMENT.

3. BRIDGE 9 ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG NORTHEAST OF
PHNOM PENH FELL EARLY MARCH 3. THE POST HAD BEEN UNDER
VERY HEAVY ATTACK. THE NAVY DID MANAGE TO DELIVER A SMALL
AMOUNT OF RICE AND AMMO MARCH 2. THE FALL OF PREK LUONG
LAST WEEK HAS ENHANCED THE KC POSITION ON THE MEKONG'S
EAST BANK OPPOSITE AND NORTH OF THE CAPITAL. THEY HAVE
FIRED ROCKETS INTO THE WESTERNMOST EDGE OF THE CAPITAL AND
NOW CAN COVER THE ENTIRE CENTRAL CITY AREA. IN ADDITION,
THE KC CAN DIRECT RECOILLESS RIFLE AND MORTAR FIRE INTO
THE NAVY BASE AT THE TIP OF THE CHROUY CHANGWAR PENINSULA.
FURTHER SOUTH ON THE EAST BANK, PARATROOP BRIGADE
ELEMENTS ARE DIGGING IN IN ANTICIPATION OF KC ATTACKS
TO EXPAND THEIR EAST BANK GAINS.

4. SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, THREE ARMOR-SUPPORTED COLUMNS
OCACOMPRISING ELEMENTS FROM THE FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD
DIVISIONS ATTACKED TO RELIEVE THE THIRD DIVISION'S RE-
MAINING ENCIRCLED BATTALION. THE OPERATION WAS MOVING
WELL AS OF NOON TODAY.

5. BOTH SVAY RIENG AND KAMPOT REPORT HEAVY ENEMY ACTIVITY.
POSITIONS ON SVAY RIENG'S EASTERN PERIMETER HAVE
PULLED BACK CLOSER TO THE CITY. A LUCKY HIT AT KAMPOT
D KDXVREKCKGWMSYNW Y FANK MUNITIONS DUMP WITH A LOSS
OF 450 ROUNDS OF MORTAR AMMO. NORTH OF PHNOM PENH, A
POSITION ON LOVEK'S SOUTHERN PERIMETER RETREATED INWARD.

6. MAJOR GENERAL SAR HOR WILL BE RELIEVED AS MR-111
COMMANDER MARCH 4. MAJOR GENERAL SEK SAM IET, WHOM HOR
REPLACED IN LATE 1974, WILL RESUME COMMAND.

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7. TWENTY-FOUR ROCKETS LANDED IN THE POCHENTONG AREA,
KILLING TWO PEOPLE AND WOUNDING 7. FOURTEEN ROUNDS LANDED
IN HE CITY KILLING 12 AND INJURING 17. FOUR OF THE ROUNDS
MADNDNOVAPB
OPWABJD
DIJL
GGR
QNYNZIQPTFNXLKRQAFABURB
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE OFFENSIVE.
DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: PHNOM PENH 3848 - PARAS 5 AND 7 AS RECEIVED.
CORRECTIONS TO FOLLOW.

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NNN

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